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bristles with difficult problems. Mr. Thomas is a painstaking recorder and accurate observer, and his suggested interpretations of customs are shrewd instances of insight into the African habit of thought. Palaver is the bane of the anthropologist in the African field. The savage is prone to regard speech as an amusement and seldom recognizes the value of linking it with real thought. Recognizing this difficulty, we are amazed at the success with which Mr. Thomas has compiled a well-supported treatise on the law of the bush in the primary rights of person and the tangle of rights of property. The wife and, equally, the slave seem to exist only as in possession; title to them may pass in one fashion or another, but they never cease to be property.

The last volume provides a large addition to the vocabulary already published. The Ibo of Nigeria is spoken in a sort of recitative, but with the important distinction that the play of the tones is not merely a matter of ornament but it is essentially a determinant of the signification of the word; therefore the tone must be indicated for each word when it is recorded. The value of these Ibo tones has been carefully studied from the phonogram and expressed as nearly as possible upon our musical scale, thus providing the means whereby facility may be acquired in their use.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Sultanate of Bornu. Translated from the German of Dr. A. Schultze.

With additions and appendices by P. Askell Benton. 401 pp. Map, index. Oxford University Press, New York, 1913. 7 x 5.

A book that should be in every collection of African literature, because it not only gives the quintessence of what Barth and Nachtigal wrote on Bornu but also the important facts revealed in the literature of the past twenty years. Dr. Schultze's book, of which this is a translation "with additions," is the first monograph that has been written on this very interesting and economically important part of Africa. Schultze, who was a member of the Anglo-German Yola-Chad Boundary Commission, covered in his book the essentials of the literature already known, together with his own observations, dealing generally with all lines of inquiry and correcting statements that he could prove to be erroneous. It is a model German monograph, most painstaking in the writing and ably covering the ground.

Mr. Benton, who is a British official in the Bornu Province of Nigeria, has made a faithful translation of the original and has added to it many footnotes of his own, enclosed in brackets, which enrich the original work. The book is all the more timely because, unfortunately, Nachtigal's great work has never been translated into English.

ASIA

Annals and Memoirs of the Court of Peking. (From the 16th to the 20th Century.) By E. Backhouse and J. O. P. Bland. 531 pp. Ills., index. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. \$4.50. 10 x 6½.

The authors have already shown in their great work upon the Empress Dowager a remarkably sympathetic appreciation of the Chinese habit of thought. They present a clear picture of the reforming power of the victorious general when attacking the palace corruption of the Mings. They record the virtuous days of the Manchu dynasty when in its youthful strength, and trace the inevitable progress of deterioration when the palace servants and the palace women led the emperors into ease and then into vice. They point out the sturdy morality of the Chinese people and make it clear that a dynasty must totter when its conduct transgresses the rules of this morality which has existed as a rule of conduct for millenniums in this ancient civilization. This is the central theme of this volume of the history of the last four centuries, a theme most excellently elaborated. They are cautious in their forecast of the future of China under its present non-dynastic rule. China itself is cautious and is willing to await the course of events. As regards their attitude toward President Yuan Shih-k'ai, it may be significant that they note with particular force the fact that both the Manchu dynasty, on whose ruins he sits in rule,